(b) The Government have conveyed their concerns to the British Government through the Indian High Commission in London. Government propose to remain in touch with the British Government in this regard.

China's stand after the visit of Indian President

1308. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what modifications have been made by China as a Result of the recent official visit of the President of India to that country with regard to Chinese stand relating to India's insistence to maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent and the Pokhran N-test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): The nuclear issue was not raised by the Chinese side during the President's visit to China (28 May—3 June 2000). Both sides agree that differences, including on the nuclear issue, should not be an impediment to improvement of bilateral relations.

US programme on Nuclear Missile Defence System

1309. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US is going ahead with its Nuclear Missile Defence System;

(b) whether this will disturb the balance of power and create an asymmetric situation of nuclear capability which would become a serious threat to the world peace; and

(c) if so. Government views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The US is developing defence systems against different kinds of missiles, including against inter-continental ballistic missiles using conventional "hit-to-kill" interceptors. Since October 1999 three tests with this interceptor have been conducted of which two have failed; further tests are scheduled. The US programme also envisages the development of advanced early warning sensors, including a radar at Shemya in Alaska.